



**Network Review and Programming Workshop,
Antananarivo, Madagascar, July 2000**

Reporting Period – June 1999 – June 2000

Foodnet is an ASARECA Network funded by USAID

Foodnet Review Report Year 1,

Timeframe – June 1999 – June 2000.

This document is an overview of the development and progress of the FOODNET project since its inception. This includes the design phase 1997-99, the first bridging year of 1998 – 1999 and the first year of activities since the project was officially approved and funded by USAID – REDSO in June 1999.

Development of the project

The idea to develop the Foodnet project was started in 1997, with discussions between the executive secretary of ASARECA, IITA, CIP and CIAT. The proposal started as a food security project, which combined postharvest and on-farm participatory research. This concept rapidly changed as greater emphasis was placed on developing a programme to support the postharvest aspects of the root crop networks in Eastern Africa, namely EARRNET and PRAPACE.

In 1998, after the first ASARECA / USAID strategy meeting, held in Entebbe February 1998, ASARECA made the request that FOODNET broaden its commodity horizons to include all the major food crops and revise the proposal into a regional postharvest network.

In June 1998, ASARECA assisted the development of the network proposal by supporting a regional team of scientists to meet in Entebbe, to develop the proposal. At this meeting the guiding principles of FOODNET were developed with a focus on market research and postharvest processing. The Network was reduced to working on two themes, (i) market analysis and (ii) enterprise development. At this time, IITA was also provided with bridging funds from USAID-REDSO to assist in the regional development of the programme.

In 1998, IITA was also awarded a grant, from the IDRC's small grants initiative, and these funds were used in conjunction with the bridging funds to start the work on market analysis. The IDRC funds were received to conduct a survey on the market opportunities for cassava flour and starch in Uganda. This work was completed in May 1999. In 1998, IITA also developed a pilot scheme for collecting market information for cassava in Uganda and this was submitted to USAID / ACDI Uganda.

In February 1999, the FOODNET proposal was presented to the European Union and funding was anticipated to be available by the end of 1999. However, USAID-REDSO, made a decision to fund FOODNET alongside their commodity networks in June 1999. Although contracts were signed in June, the funding came on stream in September 1999.

In September 1999, the establishment of FOODNET was enhanced with two buy-in projects including the ACDI funded, Market Information Service in Uganda and a smaller CTA project which aimed to design a service to provide market information to farmers and smaller traders.

Progress

A summary of progress in the Foodnet project is provided in **Tables 1 and 2**. **Table 1** provides the highlights since inception, such as the first steering committee meeting, marketing training course, the development of the Ugandan marketing information service, Website design and the competitive grants scheme. The information in **Table 2** provides details of the joint projects that will be conducted in collaboration between FOODNET and the other commodity networks in 2000-2001. The final aspect of this report outlines the training courses that are being developed over the next 6-8 months and an update on PhAction, the Global Postharvest Forum.

Table 1. Highlights of progress of activities within Foodnet

Activity	Dates	Donor	Partners	Action	Location of outputs
Bridging funds to IITA coordination unit	1998	USAID	IITA	Bridging funds received, REDSO	Enabled the design from a project into a network
Marketing survey to determine the market opportunities for cassava flour and starch in Uganda	May 1998 – May 1999	USAID / IDRC small grants initiative	NARO, CIP, Matilong, Vietnames Cassava programme, Uni NBO	Project completed, report available	Foodnet office, two reports available 1. Short version for donor and 2. Detailed version
Full funding of the project approved.	June, 1999	USAID	IITA / ASARECA	REDSO proposed to fund FOODNET project alongside existing projects, start date June 1999.	
IITA-FOODNET becomes member of PhAction / inter-centre postharvest working group	June 1999	IITA	FAO, CIRAD, NRI, ACIAR, GTZ, CIAT, CIP, IRRI, IITA	New global postharvest forum established which aims to promote postharvest research from a number of research organisations as shown left.	Forum established in June 1999
Linkages with InPh0 strengthened	June 1999	IITA - FAO	The InPho project	FOODNET will serve as a regional node for INPHO and will seek to disseminate information to regional partners	INPHO is the FAO, website for postharvest technology. See www.fao.org/inpho
Marketing sub-sector study for cassava in Uganda	Start Sept 99 End April 00	USAID, DFID, NRI, NARO cassava and postharvest programmes	NARO, NRInternational, NRI, EARRNET	First part of project survey work completed, Second part planned for Oct 00 First report in draft form to be completed in March 2000	Marketing channel analysis completed and report in draft form. This section will be on website in April 00.
Marketing information service in Uganda (Macro level service)	Start Sept 99	USAID via ACDI Kampala	FEWS, NARO, ADC, Min Finance, Min of Industry Trade & Tourism	♦ MIS project funded for 2.5 years. Aim to establish a national price information system to collect daily and weekly prices. Data collection is ongoing made available to policy groups and traders or farmers via Radio	♦ All price data now on the Foodnet website. Information is also broadcast on national and local radio stations on a daily and weekly basis. Summary data for Kampala reported in the East African Newspaper.

Activity	Dates	Donor	Partners	Action	Location of outputs
Design of a Marketing Information Service (MIS) for small-scale producers and traders in Uganda (Micro level service)	Start Oct 99	CTA, USAID	CMIS, FEWS, ADC, Radio Uganda, Min Fin, IFCD, World Food Programme, DANIDA, National Farmers	Project to disseminate market information to target groups of farmers and traders has been designed and proposal will be submitted to CTA in April 00	Two reports on Marketing information for farmers and traders on the FOODNET website 1. Preliminary study 2. Project design document 3. Micro-scale project in review
Supply of root crops processing equipment	From Sept 99	IITA / CIP	EARRNET, PRAPACE, SARRNET	Equipment being sold in Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Angola and Malawi. New orders for Zimbabwe and Swaziland	Equipment is place with NARS, NGOs and farmers groups
Crop quality analysis for cassava	Ongoing	USAID / IITA	EARRNET	Ongoing activity in collaboration with EARRNET regional trials	Serere and Namulonge stations, Uganda
Postharvest Newsletter renamed as PhAction NEWS	October 1999	IITA / GTZ	PhAction members	First PhAction newsletter published Oct 99 Second newsletter published June 00 <i>circulation 1400 copies</i>	See FOODNET website for electronic copies
FOODNET Marketing course	22-27 Nov 1999	IARCs Networks	Resources people from CIAT, CIP, ICRAF and ILRI.	Held at ICRAF, Nariobi . Participating CG centres: CIAT, CIP, ICRAF, ICRISAT, IITA, ILRI, IPGRI	Participants from: FOODNET, ECABREN, EARRNET, SARRNET, BARNESA, PRAPACE, ECAMAW, AFRENA.
FOODNET Website	1-5 Dec	Africa-link / IITA	IITA / FAO	Designed and loaded website	Foodnet website online from Dec 10 th 1999. www.cgiar.org/foodnet
Evaluation and improvement of processing equipment	Nov 18 – Dec 20	FOODNET, FAO, USAID / ACDI	IITA / FAO	Evaluation and improvement of the most promising cassava processing technologies.	Report compiled by FAO, preliminary report on website
Establishment of Monitoring framework	Feb – March 00	USAID	USAID-Africa Bureaux	To be done in March	Information available through USAID
Developed competitive grants scheme and reviewed 100 projects submitted.	Dec 99	FOODNET	USAID	Call for proposals sent in Dec 99 100 projects reviewed April 00 20 projects approved in June 00	Projects being amended by successful teams. Successful projects on website

Table 2 Projects recommended by the Project Review Panel for implementation in 2000 - 2001

Topic	Country	Linkage	Topic	SCORE	Rank	Foodnet funding	Additional support
1. Commercialisation of agricultural market information and commodity exchange services in Tanzania.	Tanzania	ECAPAPA	Market Information	331	12	14,000	Will seek linkage with KACE
2. Investigation of the viability of a farmer based network for on-line market information centres in Kiambu District Kenya	Kenya	ECAPAPA	Market Information	319	15	14,000	CTA funding KACE. Also maybe support from USAID
3. Establishment and commercialisation of a small-scale integrated cassava processing enterprise in Lira District Uganda	Uganda	EARRNET	Cassava	413	1	14,000	PRESTO funding 15,000
4. Introducing and demonstration of cassava processing equipment into the eastern zone of Tanzania	Tanzania	EARRNET	Cassava	373	3	5,000	++ TARO
5. Market Study to establish demand for value added cassava products in Kenya for cassava starch, flour and snack foods	Kenya	EARRNET	Cassava	336	10	14,000	++ EARRNET
6. Cassava Processing and marketing of products in Umutara and Bugesera Regions of Rwanda for improved income and food security	Rwanda	EARRNET	Cassava	318	16	14,000	12,000 IITA/ ISAR
7. Popularization Of The Manual Chipper/Slicer Machine For Processing Cassava Roots in Tanzania.	Tanzania	EARRNET	Cassava	311	20	7,000	
8. Market study to determine the options within the ware and seed potato markets in Rwanda and in the region.	Rwanda	PRAPACE	Potato	407	2	12,000	14,000 IITA/ ISAR 14,000 USAID Rwanda
9. A Marketing survey for potatoes in Njabini Kenya	Kenya	PRAPACE	Irish Potato	342	8	7,000	PRAPACE 7,000

Topic	Country	Linkage	Topic	SCORE	Rank	Foodnet funding	Additional support
10.Assessment of potato production, marketing and utilisation systems in the central highlands of Ethiopia	Ethiopia	PRAPACE	Irish Potato	323	13	9,000	++ Prapace
11. Feasibility study on the commercial establishment and operation of Irish Potatoes storage facilities in East Africa	Kenya	PRAPACE	Irish Potato	312	19	14,000	
12. Sweet potato market survey in north Omo zone, southern Ethiopia	Ethiopia	PRAPACE	Sweet Potato	321	14	3,500	++ Prapace
13. Value adding of banana in Burundi through preservation of juice and wine making	Burundi	BARNESA	Bananas	358	5	14,000	++ INIBAP
14. Development of convenience foods from traditionally fermented sorghum flour	Sudan	ECASAM	Grain Crops	345	7	13,000	
15. Pigeon Pea processing and utilisation (Pending review by ICRISAT)	Sudan	ICRISAT	Grain Crops	338	9	14,000	
16. Improvement of marketable traditional dairy products	Sudan	A-ANET	Livestock	355	6	14,000	
17. Strategies for the improvement of Poultry feed industry in Tanzania	Tanzania	A-ANET	Livestock	334	11	14,000	
18. Needs assessment and for small scale production of fruit pulp as an intermediate raw material in processing	Kenya	Subject to linkage with Project High Value 16	High Value	361	4	14,000	
19 Establishment of a small-scale Fruit and Vegetable Processing Plant in Machakos District of Kenya (Pending)	Kenya	Subject to linkage with Project High Value 15	High Value	304	22	Funding from Project High Value 15	
20. Conduct a market study for Bread fruit in Madagascar	Madagascar	CIRAD	Market Analysis	314	17	14,000	++ FOFIFA

Future Training courses.

1. Website design.

(Course to be developed by FOODNET, IITA, and Africa – link)

Aim of the course.

This course aims to assist the ASARECA co-ordinators to establish a dedicated website for their project and to develop the skill to maintain the site once it is loaded. At the end of the course the participants should have a clear understanding of how to maintain their site and the knowledge required to update the site with new information during the year.

Participants ASARECA co-ordinators

Course details.

Dates – September 18-22, 2000-06-19

Venue – Grand Imperial Hotel, Kampala

Accommodation – Hotel Equatorial (\$75 / night)

Resource persons – P. Philpot, A. Muganga, J. Nyagahima and C. Light

Software – Dreamweaver, Acrobat, and Fireworks.

2. Marketing Analysis Training course.

The aim of this course is to develop skills of researchers within the national agricultural research system (NARS) and in other organisations involved in agricultural marketing research. This will involve

- Familiarising participants with standard methods for analyzing agricultural marketing in developing countries
- Presenting participatory methods for identifying and evaluating market opportunities for small rural producers
- Providing hands-on instruction in these methods in both the classroom and the field
- Offering feedback on on-going and/or proposed marketing research
- Familiarizing participants with on-going marketing research, including that of the participating CG centres and NARS in the region
- Briefing on funding opportunities for market-oriented research
- Practice and feedback on developing concept notes for research projects.

Participants

Trainees will be people from Francophone countries, likely to be involved in marketing research after the course. Those who have had some training in economics or the social sciences will have an advantage. Some basic familiarity with computers is useful, but not essential. All nominations **MUST** be supported by the employing institutions.

For more information about this course, contact:

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3. Rural Agro-Enterprise Training Course.

(Course to be developed by FOODNET, AHI, CIAT and A. Networks)

Course Objectives

This course aims to contribute towards the strengthening of institutional capacity in the design, formulation and implementation of research and development projects that integrate the components of production, postharvest processing and marketing in a business context. The aim of developing these skills is to be better able to work with farmers to gain improved access to markets.

Dates - March 2001

Duration – 7 days.

Location - Uganda, possibly Kampala or Kabale

Language - English

Resource Institutions – CIAT, FOODNET, AHI

Participants – Farmers, NARS, NGOs and IARCs.

Linkage Developments



, The Global Postharvest Forum held its first official meeting this year from 5-7 June at the GTZ headquarters in Eschborn in association with the GTZ Agri-business section. At this meeting the PhAction team which comprised of FAO, GTZ, CIRAD, ACIAR, NRI, IFAD, JIRCAS, IRRI, IITA, CIAT, IFPRI and CIP, further developed the strategy. This group will be developing new proposals for postharvest research

PhAction Vision

Establishing a dynamic and integrated post-harvest sector makes a major contribution to livelihoods, food security and sustainable development.

PhAction Mission

- To achieve recognition of the importance of the post-harvest sector in developing economies and to increase the resources allocated to it.

PhAction Slogan

'Linking farmers to markets' (this can be changed from time to time).

PhAction Strategy points

- ♦ PhAction will provide a leading advocacy role in raising the profile of postharvest research and raising the level of funding into this research area.
- ♦ Provide a leading body of expertise, which will render services to partners.
- ♦ Develop new areas of postharvest research.
- ♦ Make more effective linkages with a wider range of partners.

PhAction / GTZ Workshop

Workshop discussed a range of issues from the effects of WTO to food quality and developing the influence of farmer organisations. **Output:** PhAction asked to develop areas for future action research.

1. PhAction will participate in and contribute towards a post-harvest conference to be hosted by FAO in Rome in Sept/Oct 2001. The PhAction Chairperson will sit on the organising committee.
2. The Japanese International Research Centre for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) is now a member of PhAction and there are plans for JIRCAS to host the 2002 annual meeting.
3. Dr Ellen Hanak Freud (CIRAD) was elected PhAction Chairperson for 2000/2001.